AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for increasing plant seed yield, comprising transforming a plant with an isolated nucleic acid encoding a metallothionein protein in said plant and selecting for increased expression in said plant of the nucleic acid compared to plants of the same species lacking said nucleic acid,

wherein said nucleic acid is a nucleic acid sequence encoding protein of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said increased seed yield comprises increased total number of seeds and/or increased total weight of seeds, when compared to plants of the same species lacking said nucleic acid.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said increased seed yield further comprises an increase in biomass.

Claims 5-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1~~any one of Claims 1, 6 or 7~~, wherein expression of said nucleic acid encoding said metallothionein is driven by a constitutive promoter.

10. (Previously Presented) Plants obtainable by the method according to Claim 1.

Claims 11-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) A method for increasing plant seed yield, comprising transforming a plant with an isolated nucleic acid encoding a metallothionein protein in said plant and selecting for increased plant seed yield compared to plants of the same species lacking said nucleic acid,

said nucleic acid being a nucleic acid sequence encoding protein of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein said increased yield comprises increased total number of seeds and/or increased total weight of seeds, when compared to plants of the same species lacking said nucleic acid.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 25, wherein said increased yield further comprises an increase in biomass.

Claims 29-32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 25~~any one of Claims 30 or 31~~, wherein expression of said nucleic acid encoding said metallothionein is driven by a constitutive promoter.

34. (Previously Presented) Plants obtainable by the method according to Claim 25.